



October 5, 2020

Dear King Members, Friends, and Family:

As you've all likely seen on the news, more than 130,000 people in this state have tested positive for COVID-19 since the virus first appeared last spring. Today, hospitalizations for COVID-19 are at record levels and rural and urban hospitals across this state are approaching capacity. As you know, the people who live at our Homes are among the most vulnerable citizens given their age, underlying conditions, and the physical environment in which they live. Again, I implore you all to do everything in your power to help prevent the spread of this dangerous virus.

Here at King, we have had **three more members and two more staff** test positive for COVID-19 over the weekend. In total, we have 48 people who live and work here at King who are now confirmed to have this terrible virus. Of these 21 are members and 27 are staff. The member who tested positive is a resident of Olson Hall and has been moved to the quarantine area in Stordock Hall. In total, we have 25 members in quarantine. Some of these are in quarantine out of an abundance of caution. Sadly, also this weekend, one member who had been considered recovered from COVID-19 passed away.

Given the number of staff we have out with the coronavirus, we have requested and are beginning to receive additional nursing assistance so we can continue to provide the highest level of care. We are doing all we can to help members recover and prevent further spread through strict infection control efforts. A full list of practices we have enacted to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 is below.

This week we will begin implementing our plan to provide these communications digitally to those who have provided us their email. If you have not yet shared your email with us, I encourage you to visit [www.WisVetsEmail.com](http://www.WisVetsEmail.com) and provide us with your name, email address, and/or cell phone number. This will allow us to send future updates such as these to you via email or text. Initially, this will not replace paper communications, but we want to be able to provide these updates to you as quickly as possible. We will eventually be transitioning away from paper communications.

With 444 residents and over 700 staff on campus, preventing the spread of the coronavirus is a challenge, but one that I think we can overcome with your help. Again, I cannot stress enough the importance of following the guidance of health officials to continue to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash our hands frequently.

Sincerely,

Tammy Servatius, Commandant

## **Wisconsin Veterans Home at King COVID-19 Practices**

As a reminder, the following steps are taken on campus when we have cases of COVID-19:

- Members with COVID-19 are moved to a quarantine area.
- A very limited number of staff work with the infected members. These staff have been trained in infectious disease control and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 masks and face shields.
- Staff follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health Services regarding contact tracing, additional testing, and quarantining others as necessary.
- Staff diagnosed with COVID-19 must complete quarantine or test negative twice following their positive diagnosis.

As always, we are:

- Taking extra environmental safety precautions, such as cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces;
- Screening and monitoring members, staff, and compassionate visitors for COVID-19 symptoms; and
- Prohibiting non-essential visits.